UNITED STATES HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR GERMANY
Bad Godesberg

CONFIDENTIAL - EYES ONLY

April 15, 1954.

Dear David:

This brief note will both acknowledge your letter of April 9 and its enclosure and also give you a piece of information which for the time being I wish you would keep to yourself alone. It involves a conversation I had late yesterday with the Chancellor, the substance of which I shall report to the Secretary and Livie Merchant when I see them on Monday in Washington. If they decide the information should be sent to London and to the Embassy in Paris, the cable can go from there and the delay will have done no harm. The reason I am taking the unusual step of notifying you only is that the Chancellor specifically requested me to keep the information restricted to Washington only and I am counting you as an extension of Washington rather than as part of the Paris mission.

The Chancellor repeated what Hallstein had already told me earlier yesterday, that Hallstein's conversations with Maurice Schumann had been entirely unsatisfactory. (Hallstein told me that Schumann was adamant on his particular text and would not enter into any exchange of ideas or real discussion of any points, but stuck completely to his own draft which was completely unsatisfactory from the German standpoint.)

The Chancellor said he had felt there was nothing further to be accomplished in continuing discussions of the Saar under the official auspices which had been set up. He proposed to see if he could not arrange to have some sort of unofficial meeting between Tietgen and Brentano, who he felt could work out a plan which would come nearer to meeting the needs of both the Germans and the French. He thought these conversations might take place sometime within the next two weeks. If and when these were completed he felt the United States and Great Britain must then be prepared to move actively into the situation, otherwise it would be impossible to come to a solution of the Saar problem. I made no comment on his remarks or his proposal except beyond promising to repeat them to Washington.

In general the Chancellor had not given up hope about EDC ratification but was deeply disturbed about the repercussions on the forthcoming elections in the Laender of any failure of his European policy. In this

The Honorable
David K.E. Bruce,
United States Observer,
American Embassy,
Paris, France.

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Conant, James B.

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regard he said in somewhat different words the substance of the third paragraph of his letter to you, dated April 8, a copy of which you so kindly sent me.

I shall be in Washington on Monday and plan to stay until the first of May, arriving here on Saturday, May 1. While I am in the States I shall be seeing people in Washington the first part of the week, have a few days in Cambridge, and see my son in Montreal the end of the week, then return to Washington for the hearings on my budget before the House and Senate. I am planning to address the Bar Association on a report on Germany on Wednesday, April 28, and an off-the-record talk before a small group of the Foreign Policy Association in New York on the 29th.

As I dictate this letter now we are holding our breath here in Bonn as to the uncertainty of what the French Cabinet will do about setting a date for the debate on EDC and as usual we alternate between optimism and pessimism as to the successful outcome of the matters in which we have been so deeply involved for so long a time. I imagine I shall find a great deal of curiosity as well as impatience in Washington, particularly among Congressional circles and I am only hoping the news from Paris will contain some hope for EDC before I have to testify before the Congressional committees on the 27th and 28th.

With all good wishes.

As ever,

James B. Conant

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